

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 19562 180126Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-05 AID-05 /058 W

----- 013014

R 171626Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1408

INFO JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

13AF CLARK AB PI

17AD UDORN AFLD THAILAND

656SOW NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND

AMCONSUL UDORN

S E C R E T BANGKOK 19562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJ: US FORCE REDUCTIONS THAILAND

REF: JCS MESSAGE 152041Z SEP 75

1. REFTEL AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES IN MILITARY CHANNELS FORESEE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE CLOSURE OF US FACILITIES AT NKP. THESE MESSAGES EXPRESS CONCERN THAT RETROGRADE OF US TITLE ITEMS TO BE REMOVED WILL NOT BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 31 TURN-OVER DATE, AND REQUEST NEGOTIATIONS WITH RTG TO PERMIT CONTINUED OPERATION OF USAF RETROGRADING TEAM BEYOND THAT DATE.

2. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS AT NKP ARE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY AND RAPIDLY, IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT RETROGRADE ACTIONS WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY COMPLETED BY OCT. 31. THIS SAME SITUATION COULD ALSO ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE BASE CLOSINGS AND COULD RESULT IN SOME RETROGRADE ACTIONS EXTENDING EVEN BEYOND MARCH 1976.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 19562 180126Z

3. WE BELIEVE RTG WILL AGREE WITHOUT DIFFICULTY TO CONTINUATION OF RETROGRADE ACTIONS BEYOND BASE CLOSURE DATES PROVIDED AIRCRAFT, MOST PERSONNEL, AND BULK OF MATERIEL HAVE BEEN REMOVED ON TIME. WE DO NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE TO INITIATE QTE NEGOTIATIONS UNQTE WELL IN ADVANCE OF CLOSURE DATES LOOKING TOWARD EXTENSION OF RETROGRADE ACTIONS BEYOND THOSE DATES. THIS WOULD GIVE IMPRESSION THAT WE DO NOT TAKE CLOSURE DATES COMPLETELY SERIOUSLY.

4. BEST COURSE WILL BE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET ANNOUNCED CLOSURE DATES. IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE, AS CLOSURE DATES DRAW NEAR, IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT SOME RETROGRADE ACTIONS WILL EXTEND BEYOND THEM, LOW KEY INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE SOUGHT THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS. AS OF NOW, WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS WILL NOT CAUSE DIFFICULTY.
MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

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